

Water Saving Tips

Outside

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- Check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- Collect water from your roof to water your garden.
- Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizer applications increase the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.

Inside

- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Install low-volume toilets.
- When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- Wash clothes only when you have a full load.
- Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank)
- Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.